



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6102.0 - Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2001

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 18/05/2001 Ceased

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INTRODUCTION

20.13.1 This survey collects information about the job search experience of job seekers. It provides information on the ways in which people look for jobs, and particularly on the methods which prove ultimately to be successful. Information from this survey is used in the development and analysis of labour market policy. First conducted in 1982, the survey is currently conducted biennially in July.

20.13.2 This section describes only those aspects of the methodology that are unique to this survey, and hence should be used in conjunction with the overview part of this chapter, which outlines the survey methodology used in supplementary surveys.

SURVEY OUTPUT

20.13.3 Data from the survey are published in **Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia** (Cat. no. 6245.0). More detailed data are available on request.

20.13.4 Data from the survey relate to persons aged 15 years and over. The main population of interest in the survey is persons who had started or looked for a job for wages or salary during the 12 months prior to the survey date, excluding persons who started a new job with the same employer. Estimates are produced on an original basis only (i.e. not seasonally adjusted) and include:

Socio-demographic information	Sex, age, marital status, relationship in household, family, geographic region, educational attainment, birthplace and year of arrival in Australia.
Data on successful job seekers	Selected labour force characteristics, number of jobs started in the previous 12 months, method of job attainment, whether out of work before commencing a job, duration of job search, preferred occupation, and role of Centrelink or CES in job attainment.
Data on unsuccessful job seekers	Steps taken to find work, type of work looking for (occupation, full-time or part-time work), duration looking for work, and number of spells looking for work.

20.13.5 All data collected are compiled according to concepts and definitions outlined in: Chapter 2 (labour force status), Chapter 3 (employment), Chapter 4 (employment characteristics), Chapter 6 (unemployment) and Chapter 15 (socio-demographic information).

SCOPE

20.13.6 The scope of this survey is restricted to persons aged 15 and over. The standard scope restrictions for supplementary surveys outlined in the overview part of Chapter 20 also apply to this survey.

DATA COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

20.13.7 In order to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time, changes to survey methods, survey concepts, data item definitions, frequency of collection, and analysis methods are made as infrequently as possible. Over the time the survey has been conducted there have been some changes to the scope and sample size. These changes mean that the standard errors for the survey differ over time. The effect on estimates of the change in scope is considered to have been small. Changes affecting the Labour Force Survey may also affect this survey. Such changes are outlined in Chapter 19 and are not repeated here.

- 1982** Initial survey conducted (July) - preliminary data published in **Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia, Preliminary** (Cat. no. 6244.0) and final data in **Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia** (Cat. no. 6245.0).
Survey scope - persons aged 15 and over except those still attending school.
Data was from persons who started a wage or salary job over the period six months to July 1982.
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- 1986** Survey conducted (June) - preliminary data published in **Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, Preliminary** (Cat. no. 6244.0) and final data in **Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia** (Cat. no. 6245.0).
Data were collected from persons who looked for, or started, a wage or salary job over the previous 12 months.
Preliminary publication discontinued.
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- 1990** Biennial collection commenced (July).
Survey scope - all persons aged 15 and over.
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- 1994** Sample restricted to seven-eighths of the Labour Force Survey sample.
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- 1998** Persons living in remote and sparsely settled areas excluded from scope.
Additional questions on active steps to find work, and on role of CES/Centrelink in job attainment, revised to reflect changes in the employment services market.

FURTHER INFORMATION

20.13.8 For further details contact the Assistant Director, Monthly and Multi-purpose Population Surveys Section, on Canberra (02) 6252 6660.

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This page last updated 9 February 2006

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